

Rob's last Review

St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir
Registered Charity No. 1028123
Patron: The Rt. Hon The Earl of Iveagh
President: Ian Morgan
Vice President: John Balaam
Chairman: Rob Bream



*St Edmundsbury
Male Voice Choir*

2021

Issue No. 14

(September)



Welcome to the final edition of Rob's Review. This has been the only 3-year chair appointment with an 18 month break. Nonetheless we are all very pleased to be returning to some sort of normality although we now face the winter months. After 33 years weekly rehearsal at Howard School we have been ousted by a dancing group and it seems we have to find a new venue.

However, on the brighter side there are good things too.

We welcome our new President, Ian Morgan who attended the first 'proper' rehearsal of SEMVC on 2 September since 19 March 2020.

Ian writes:

"I am delighted to have been asked to be the new President of St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir. Although I was, for over 35 years, involved with music (retired director of The Music Sales Group) I cannot profess to having any appreciable skill in either playing an instrument or having a voice that would be appreciated by anyone other than someone who is tone deaf. That said I very much enjoy all genres of choral music and look forward to meeting you all at the earliest opportunity."



We now have a new choir trailer thanks in part to the gift from the late Paul Deane and the hard work by Concert Manager Ash to secure and organise the delivery. He has fitted it out to make loading easier.

For Sale - 1 old horse box!



Ash has also arranged for the staging guard rails to be reconditioned and an improved stand for MD Mark.

Sadly during the lockdown period we lost some of our members of the choir. Among them Jim Beardsmore (Baritone), Terry Crean (Bass), Paul Deane (SEMVC President), David Peck (Bass, Choir Librarian), Cliff Rush (Baritone), Ed Wilson (Past Chairman). We remember them and their families and friends.

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Thanks to Nigel Farthing we had the benefit of singing in the grounds of St Mary's Church Pakenham and only on one occasion were rained off. It was unusual but gave us the chance to exercise our voices before being allowed to sing inside.



Currently with the help of Edward Coningsby we are rehearsing in St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds whilst finding a suitable venue as our home base.

A sunny Sunday 15 August saw about 30 people (members, family and friends) enjoy a barbeque which was kindly hosted by Tim Freathy (Top Tenor) and Mark in their delightful Depden surroundings. The afternoon concluded with everyone roaming the lovely grounds.



Ivor's annual Norfolk walk, in Suffolk

The 2020 walk was booked for 19 August in Brancaster but was cancelled because of the weather forecast.

However:-

"It will be sunny on Thursday 26 August 2021," predicted Ivor.

Well, it wasn't!

A grey day, typical of most of our summer this year.

Nevertheless, this did not detract from the fun of getting outside, stretching our legs and having a good chat. We walked along the river Alde from Snape Maltings to Iken church and back. Not far but a beautiful part of Suffolk. A lovely lunch at The Golden Key in Snape with a few beers and we went on our merry way. Ivor



The cancelled April 2020 Vienna Trip

With the aid of Pretty's solicitors, Ipswich we continue to pursue the refund of the hotel costs.

There is movement on this and we will keep you up to date on the position as it progresses.

Our Treasurer, Andrew Conquest, has undertaken this task as he is very familiar with legal procedures with his work.

And finally, a big thank you to Judy Robertson for helping me, and doing most of the work in producing Rob's Reviews.

My thanks to the Committee and to all who have assisted me since taking office in the summer of 2018.

Without the choristers there would be no choir and so I now look forward to returning to focus on my singing.

With every good wish
Rob

Dates for your Diary

2021

October, Su24 - Concert with Honington Military Wives Choir and guests Gemma Alexander and Lift (West Suffolk Hospital Choir), The Apex, BSE

October, Sa30 - Sing for Your Supper, Horringer

December, Su5 - Concert at Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge, CB2 1TQ, with Lauren Hoskins. (tbc)

December, Th23 - Carols and Chips, BSE Rugby ground

2022

PLEASE NOTE - All the following are to be confirmed.

Afternoon concert in the park at Ickworth Church, Ickworth Park, BSE IP29 5QE.

Concert with Men2Sing at the William de Ferrers Centre, South Woodham Ferrers, Chelmsford CM3 5JX.

Concert with Mansfield and District MVC at St John's Church, BSE IP33 3QW.

November – Sing at BSE Christmas Fayre, Angel Hill

A tribute to Edwin John Wilson, 1949 – 2021

from Richard Everett



Ed, as he was affectionately known to his friends, was born in Kortrijk, Belgium. He moved to Suffolk in 1979 to take up the position as Head of Art at Thurston Upper School. There he taught Dan Emery whose parents, Bob and Avril, he met at a parent's evening. Ed formed a lasting friendship with them and soon pressure was brought to bear on Ed to join the SEMVC, which he did in 1991.

Several choir members had motorhomes and at a tea break those interested decided that, as there was a concert at Kings Lynn, they would travel by motorhome and make a weekend of it, staying at the Sandringham Campsite. Four couples participated - Ed and Sylvia, Anne and I, Ken and Ann Hankard and another Top Tenor. So successful was it that we have since travelled to many sites across the country.

Ed was soon appointed Section Leader of the Top Tenors and it was his frequent boast that he "serviced his section". In 2009 Ed was elected Chairman of SEMVC with almost a completely new committee, on which I was appointed Secretary. Sylvia and Anne became "Page Turner" and "Tea Rota Organiser" respectively. I got to know Ed very well. His love of the Choir was second to none. In 2012 there was a Top Tenor vacancy in the Edmund Octet which Ed filled. I remember at one of their annual concerts in the Unitarian Church the Octet sang Nessun Dorma and Ed sang the climax with his characteristic style! No matter what he was involved in, Ed put his all into it. He loved quizzes and organised them for Norton Twinning Association and was a regular attendee at Woolpit's monthly quiz. Being a keen competitor in the SEMVC weekly on-line quiz, he caused the organisers to introduce a rule limiting the number of times a member (Ed) could receive first prize. His knowledge of pop music put him at a great advantage over most participants. He will long be remembered for organizing the "Sing for your Supper" evenings, an integral part of the Choir year.

Sadly Ed was diagnosed with Myeloma when the country was ravaged by the Corona virus. Due to the various lockdown restrictions his frequent visits to hospital required Sylvia to act as chauffeur and delays at the hospital meant she was often kept waiting for anytime up to two hours. Covid restrictions also meant Ed was not allowed visitors, even at home, other than to see him through a window.

Ed's funeral took place on Friday 12 March 2021 at the Bury Crematorium where Covid restrictions allowed a maximum of 30 mourners but the choir was represented by a number of members invited by Sylvia. It was a half hour service and as Ed was not of a religious persuasion the occasion was ably conducted by Ivor Thulborn. Short eulogies were read by Dan Emery and a school colleague as well as many members of the family which happily included Ed and Sylvia's younger son Huw who, despite Covid travel restrictions had travelled from Norway. There was no singing but the "What would I do without my music?" track from the CD "Colours" (Ed designed the sleeve) was played.

Farewell Ed, you will long be remembered by us all.